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ABSTRACT

More than two-thirds of New Mexico's population live in places classified as urban by the Bureau of the Census. The state remained rural longer than did the United States as a whole, but by 1970 the proportion of the total population living in urban areas in New Mexico had increased to 69.8%, not much below the national percentage of 73.5. Urbanization in New Mexico was particularly rapid in the 1950's; the proportion of urban people in the total population increased 15.7%, nearly 3 times the rate of increase for the United States. In the 1960's, urbanization in the state took place at a much slower rate, only 3.9%. The urban-rural distribution of New Mexico's population in 1970 varied considerably from county to county. Nine counties had no urban population; in 6 counties, less than half of the population was urban; of the 17 counties with over half of the population urban, 10 had urban population percentages above the state average. In 1950, the Federal census for the first time showed a numerical as well as a percentage decline in the rural population. The numerical decline has continued since. The rural population loss, however, was not uniform throughout New Mexico. Twenty-three counties lost rural population in the 1960's, but the other 9 counties had increases, some of which were quite substantial. Approximately three-fifths of the population centers with 2,500 or more inhabitants lost population during the 1960's. (Author/JH)

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NEW MEXICO'S
URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION

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AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION RESEARCH REPORT 207

Summary

More than two-thirds of New Mexico's population live in places classified as urban by the Bureau of the Census. The state remained rural longer than did the United States as a whole, but by 1970, the proportion of the total population living in urban areas in New Mexico had increased to 69.8 percent, not much below the national percentage of 73.5 percent.

Urbanization in New Mexico was particularly rapid in the 1950s. During the decade, the proportion of urban people in the total population increased 15.7 percent, nearly three times as high a rate of increase as that for the United States. In the 1960s, urbanization in the state took place at a much slower rate, only 3.9 percent.

The urban-rural distribution of the population of New Mexico in 1970 varied considerably from county to county. Nine counties had no urban population; in six counties, less than half of the population was urban; of the 17 counties with over half of the population urban, 10 had urban population percentages above the state average.

In 1950, the federal census for the first time showed a numerical as well as a percentage decline in the rural population. The numerical decline has continued since. The rural population loss, however, was not uniform throughout New Mexico. Twenty-three counties lost rural population in the 1960s, but the other nine counties had increases, some of which were quite substantial.

Of the six planning and development districts in the state, two had small percentage declines in the urban population, but the other four showed high rates of increase. Rural population changes also varied as between planning and development districts. Losses occurred in four districts while two districts showed gains.

Approximately three-fifths of the population centers with 2,500 or more inhabitants lost population during the 1960s. Half of the centers with from 1,000 to 2,499 inhabitants lost population in the decade. Two-thirds of the centers with less than 1,000 inhabitants lost population.

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September 1971 Las Cruces, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO'S URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION

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When power lines and improved roads began to reach rural areas, people said that the differences between city living and country living were being erased. But more and more people moved to the cities, and other differences arose. The implications of urbanization and depopulation of rural areas became evident.

Urbanization brings urbanism as a way of life for an increasing proportion of the population. It increases the political influence of urban centers. With urbanization come problems of housing, sanitation, transportation, law enforcement, and recreation.

On the other side of the coin, urbanization means that rurality as a way of life remains significant for relatively fewer people. It diminishes the political power of rural areas. Rural depopulation intensifies already existing problems with local government, law enforcement, health and medical services, rural education, economic services, and other institutional services.

New Mexico has no amulet that protects her from these problems of changing rural-urban population distribution. The particular set of problems in any area depends upon whether the population is increasing or decreasing and on whether it is urban or rural. This report presents data on various aspects of urban and rural population changes in New Mexico. It shows the relative proportion of urban and rural people in the state for each decade since 1850 and in each county in 1970. Special attention is given to urbanization since 1950. The report also shows the changes which have occurred between 1960 and 1970 in the urban and rural population in each county and in the six planning and development districts in the state.[1] Finally, it gives the population changes of the past decade for all incorporated places and all unincorporated places of 1,000 or more inhabitants.

The basic data included in the report are from publications of the Bureau of the Census.

Definition of Urban and Rural

According to the definition used by the Bureau of the Census for the 1970 census, the urban population comprises all persons living in urbanized areas and in places with 2,500 or more inhabitants outside urbanized areas. As defined, an urbanized area generally contains at least one city of 50,000 or more inhabitants and includes that portion of the surrounding territory, whether incorporated or unincorporated, which meets specified criteria relating to population density. The population not classified as urban constitutes the rural population.[2]

This definition of urban is essentially the same as that adopted by the Bureau of the Census for the first time in 1950 and also used in 1960. Therefore, urban and rural data are comparable for 1950, 1960, and 1970. Before 1950, the urban

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[1]The six districts (see table 6 and figure 2) were proposed by the State Planning Office and subsequently approved by the Governor of New Mexico. See "Planning and Development Districts for the State of New Mexico," *Planning Report No. 4*, State Planning Office, Santa Fe, 1969, P.2.

[2]Advance Report PC(VI)-33 Revised, *Final Population Counts: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p.2.

population was defined simply as those persons living in incorporated places of 2,500 or more inhabitants.

The Changing Urban-Rural Population Distribution in New Mexico

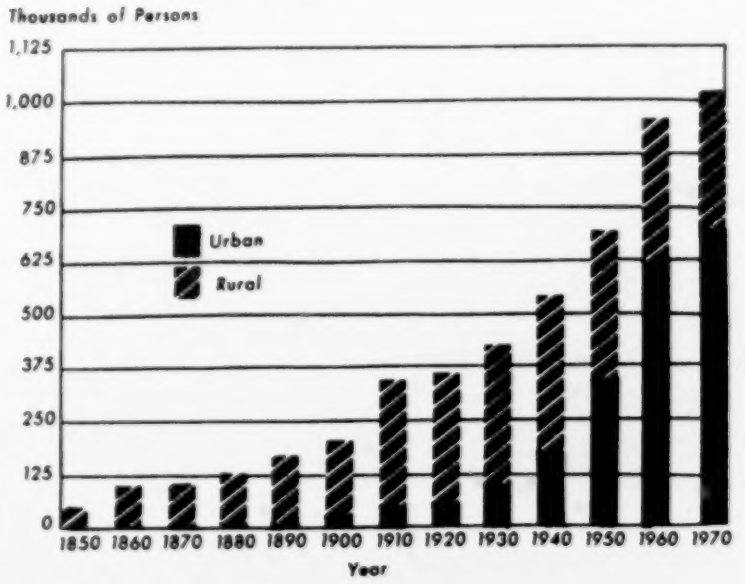
New Mexico definitely has become urban, in spite of its mountains and wide-open spaces (see table 1). More than two-thirds of the population in 1970 was classified as urban by the federal census bureau. The urbanization, however, was slower in New Mexico than in the United States as a whole.

In 1920, the federal census for the first time showed over half the total population of the United States as urban. Since then, urbanization in the nation has continued at a rapid pace. According to the 1970 census, 73.5 percent of the total population is urban.

On the basis of the pre-1950 definition of urban, New Mexico was first classified as urban in the 1960 census. According to the definition of urban which was first used in the 1950 census, New Mexico just barely had become an urban state in 1950. By 1970, the proportion of the total population living in urban areas had increased to 69.8 percent.

The numbers of urban and rural people in New Mexico from 1850 to 1870 are shown graphically in figure 1.

Fig. 1. Urban and rural populations, New Mexico, 1850 to 1970



The Urban and Rural Population in 1970

The 1970 urban-rural population distribution varies considerably by counties (table 2). Nine counties had no urban population. In six other counties, less than half of the population was

Table 1. Urban and rural population of New Mexico, 1850-1970*

Year	Population			Percent of Total	
	Total	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1850	61,547	4,539	57,008	7.4	92.6
1860	87,034**	4,635**	82,399**	5.3	94.7
1870	91,874	4,765	87,109	5.2	94.8
1880	119,565	6,635	112,930	5.5	94.5
1890	160,282	9,970	150,312	6.2	93.8
1900	195,310	27,381	167,929	14.0	86.0
1910	327,301	46,571	280,730	14.2	85.8
1920	360,350	64,960	295,390	18.0	82.0
1930	423,317	106,816	316,501	25.2	74.8
1940	531,818	176,401	355,417	33.2	66.8
1950***	681,187	341,889	339,298	50.2	49.8
1960***	951,023	626,479****	324,544	65.9	34.1
1970***	1,016,000	708,775****	307,225	69.8	30.2

*Data for 1850-1960 are from Final Report PC (1)-33A, Number of Inhabitants: New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, p. 5; data for 1970 are from Advance Report PC (VI)-33 Revised, Final Population Counts: New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 3.

**Data for 1860 are exclusive of the population of the area taken to form a part of Colorado Territory in 1861 and of the population of the area organized as a part of the Territory of Arizona in 1863. No estimate of the population in 1850 is available for the territory acquired from Mexico through the Gadsden Purchase (1853) and annexed to New Mexico in 1854.

***Current urban definition.

****Includes the population of a delineated urbanized area in Bernalillo County outside the city of Albuquerque. The population of that area was 40,027 in 1960 and 18,323 in 1970. There was no urbanized area delineated for Albuquerque for the 1950 Census.

Table 2. Urban and rural population, by counties, New Mexico, 1970*

County	Total Population	Urban		Rural	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
The State	1,016,000	708,775	69.8	307,225	30.2
Bernalillo	315,774	297,451	94.2	18,323	5.8
Catron	2,198	0	0	2,198	100.0
Chaves	43,335	33,908	78.2	9,427	21.8
Colfax	12,170	6,962	57.2	5,208	42.8
Curry	39,517	33,956	85.9	5,561	14.1
De Baca	2,547	0	0	2,547	100.0
Dona Ana	69,773	46,189	66.2	23,584	33.8
Eddy	41,119	31,612	76.9	9,507	23.1
Grant	22,030	10,659	48.4	11,371	51.6
Guadalupe	4,969	0	0	4,969	100.0
Harding	1,348	0	0	1,348	100.0
Hidalgo	4,734	3,429	72.4	1,305	27.6
Lea	49,554	40,183	81.1	9,371	18.9
Lincoln	7,560	0	0	7,560	100.0
Los Alamos	15,198	15,171	99.8	27	.2
Luna	11,706	8,343	71.3	3,363	28.7
McKinley	43,208	18,554	42.9	24,654	57.1
Mora	4,673	0	0	4,673	100.0
Otero	41,097	33,887	82.5	7,210	17.5
Quay	10,903	7,189	65.9	3,714	34.1
Rio Arriba	25,170	3,902	15.5	21,268	84.5
Roosevelt	16,479	10,554	64.0	5,925	36.0
Sandoval	17,492	0	0	17,492	100.0
San Juan	52,517	25,333	48.2	27,184	51.8
San Miguel	21,951	13,835	63.0	8,116	37.0
Santa Fe	53,756	41,793	77.7	11,963	22.3
Sierra	7,189	4,656	64.8	2,533	35.2
Socorro	9,763	4,687	48.0	5,076	52.0
Taos	17,516	0	0	17,516	100.0
Torrance	5,290	0	0	5,290	100.0
Union	4,925	2,931	59.5	1,994	40.5
Valencia	40,539	13,591	33.5	26,948	66.5

*Advance Report PC(VI)-33 Revised, Final Population Counts: New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 3

urban, the lowest proportion being 15.5 percent in Rio Arriba County. In the 17 counties with over half of the population urban, 10 had percentages above the state average of 69.8 percent, Los Alamos having the highest, 99.8 percent.

However, percentages are sometimes misleading. A county with a relatively high percentage of urban people in its total population may contribute relatively little to the urban population of the state because the total county population is small. For example, Hidalgo County was 72.4 percent urban in 1970 but had only 3,429 urban inhabitants. On the other hand, Eddy County was 76.9 percent urban, approximately the same percentage as Hidalgo County, but it had 31,612 urban inhabitants.

A better picture of the importance of the urban population in the counties relative to the total urban population in New Mexico will be obtained by looking at what percentage of the total urban population in the state is located in a given county (see table 3).

Of the 23 counties with urban populations in 1970, the percentage which each had of the state's urban population varied from 42.0 percent in Bernalillo County to 0.4 percent in Union County. Four counties (Dona Ana, Lea, Santa Fe and Bernalillo) accounted for 60.1 percent of the urban population in the state. On the other hand, five counties (Hidalgo, Rio Arriba, Sierra, Socorro, and Union) had only 2.7 percent of the state's urban population.

The importance of the rural population in each county relative to New Mexico's total rural population can be seen in table 4.

As with the urban population, although not as much, the rural population is concentrated in certain counties in the state. The 10 counties with

Table 3. The percentage of New Mexico's urban population in each county, 1970

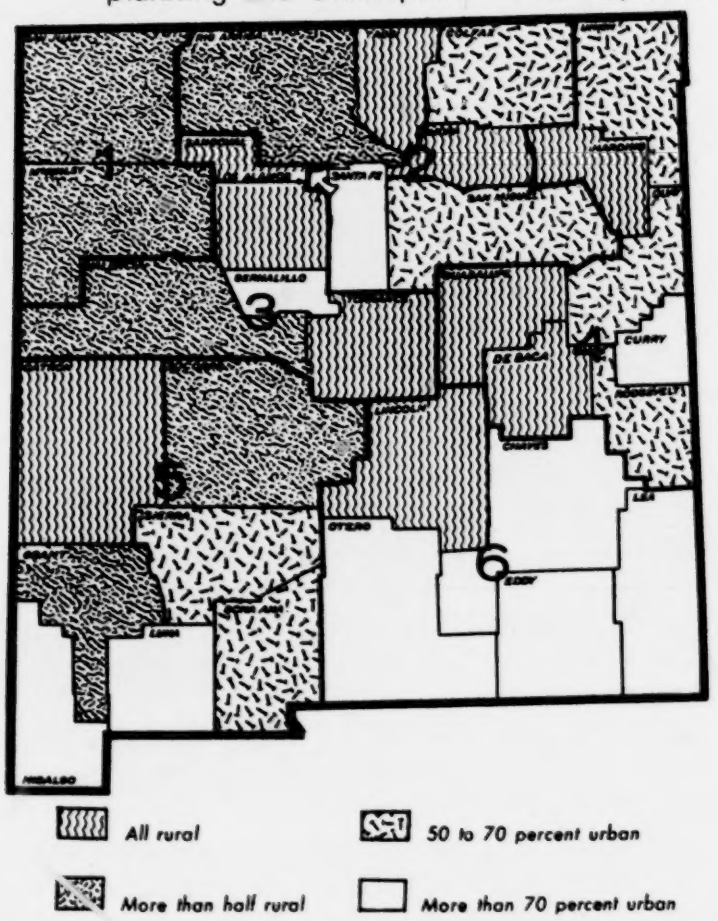
County	Urban Population	
	Number	Percent
The State	708,775	100.0
Bernalillo	297,451	42.0
Chaves	33,908	4.8
Colfax	6,962	1.0
Curry	33,956	4.8
Dona Ana	46,189	6.5
Eddy	31,612	4.5
Grant	10,659	1.5
Hidalgo	3,429	0.5
Lea	40,183	5.7
Los Alamos	15,171	2.1
Luna	8,343	1.2
McKinley	18,554	2.6
Otero	33,887	4.8
Quay	7,189	1.0
Rio Arriba	3,902	0.5
Roosevelt	10,554	1.5
San Juan	25,333	3.6
San Miguel	13,835	1.9
Santa Fe	41,793	5.9
Sierra	4,656	0.6
Socorro	4,687	0.7
Union	2,931	0.4
Valencia	13,591	1.9

Table 4. The percentage of New Mexico's rural population in each county, 1970

County	Rural Population	
	Number	Percent
The State	307,255	100.0
Bernalillo	18,323	6.0
Catron	2,198	0.7
Chaves	9,427	3.1
Colfax	5,208	1.7
Curry	5,561	1.8
De Baca	2,547	0.8
Dona Ana	23,584	7.7
Eddy	9,507	3.1
Grant	11,371	3.7
Guadalupe	4,969	1.6
Harding	1,348	0.4
Hidalgo	1,305	0.4
Lea	9,371	3.1
Lincoln	7,560	2.5
Los Alamos	27	*
Luna	3,363	1.1
McKinley	24,654	8.0
Mora	4,673	1.5
Otero	7,210	2.3
Quay	3,714	1.2
Rio Arriba	21,268	6.9
Roosevelt	5,925	1.9
Sandoval	17,492	5.7
San Juan	27,184	8.9
San Miguel	8,116	2.6
Santa Fe	11,963	3.9
Sierra	2,533	0.8
Socorro	5,076	1.7
Taos	17,516	5.7
Torrance	5,290	1.7
Union	1,994	0.7
Valencia	26,948	8.8

*Less than one-tenth percent

Fig. 2. Urban-rural population distribution by planning and development districts, 1970



over 10,000 rural population account for almost two-thirds of the rural population. In comparison, the seven counties each having less than one percent of the state's rural population collectively had 3.8 percent of that population.

The urban-rural distribution in 1970 in the six planning and development districts is shown in figure 2.

Urbanization During the 1950s

Table 1 shows the extensive urbanization in New Mexico during the 1950s. The increase in the proportion of urban people from 50.2 percent in 1950 to 65.9 percent in 1960 was phenomenal. It was an increase of 15.7 percent; the increase for the United States as a whole was only 5.9 percent. Numerically, the increase amounted to 284,590

persons. Over one-third of the increase occurred in Albuquerque, but the increases were also general throughout the state.

Since the definition of urban used by the Bureau of the Census was the same for both 1950 and 1960, the explanation for the relatively large urban increase during the 1950s must lie elsewhere.

Most of the urban population growth occurred in places that were classified as urban in 1950. The majority of these were incorporated places with 2,500 or more inhabitants. The increase in these centers during the 1950s accounted for 77.9 percent of the urban increase in the state. However, this increase was partly due to changes in the corporate limits of the centers. Numerically, the population in the centers increased by 221,723 persons (including 104,374 in Albuquerque), but only 58.9 percent of that increase occurred within the corporate limits as they existed in 1950. The remaining 41.1 percent was in areas annexed to the centers between 1950 and 1960.[3]

The remainder of the urban population growth during the 1950s (22.1 percent) was due to the following factors: 1) the delineation of an urbanized area in Bernalillo County around the city of Albuquerque (exclusive of Armijo, Atrisco-Five Points, and Los Duranes, which became a part of the city in the 1950s); 2) the increase in two unincorporated centers (Los Alamos and Zuni Pueblo) and the addition of one unincorporated center (State College-Mesilla Park), all with more than 2,500 inhabitants; and 3) the inclusion of seven incorporated places which were classified as urban in the 1960 census but not in the 1950 census (Aztec, Bernalillo, Eunice, Grants, Jal, Milan, and Tularosa).[4]

Urban Population Changes in the 1960s

New Mexico's urban population grew rapidly during the 1950s but not during the 1960s. Between 1960 and 1970, the proportion of urban inhabitants in the total population increased by only 3.9 percent, about the same as the national average of 3.6 percent. In the 1960s, the extension of the corporate limits of places with 2,500 or more inhabitants contributed much less to the urban population than in the 1950s. Annexation in the 1960s added only 32,010 persons to the urban population, compared with an increase of 91,088 due to annexation in the 1950s. In many of the centers, the increase in numbers due to annexation did not compensate for losses within the corporate limits as they existed in 1960.[5]

Furthermore, urban population increases were much less general over the state than they had been in the previous decade. In 10 of the 22 counties with urban population in 1960, decreases occurred during the decade. The increase in five counties—Bernalillo, Curry, Dona Ana, Otero, and Santa Fe—was substantial enough to far exceed the urban population increase for the entire state (see table 5).

Figure 3 shows the New Mexico counties with urban population in 1970 ranked according to the percentage change between 1960 and 1970.

Urban population changes between 1960 and 1970 are shown in table 6 for the six planning and development districts in the state. Two districts lost urban population during the decade, but on a percentage basis the loss was not large. It was approximately the same in both districts. In the other four districts, the urban population increased and the rates of increase were large, especially in District 5, where it was 28.9 percent—more than

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[3]Final Report PC(1)-33A, *Number of Inhabitants: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, p. 10.

[4]*Ibid.*

[5]Final Report PC(1)-A33, *Number of Inhabitants: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p.12.

Fig. 3. Counties ranked by percentage change in urban population, 1960 to 1970

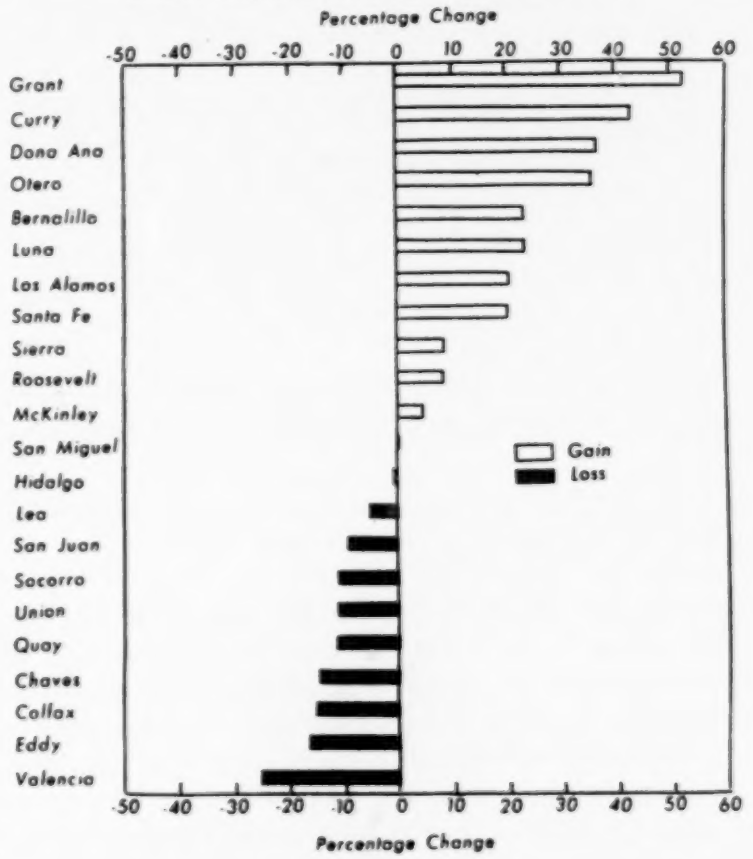

Table 5. Urban population change, by counties, New Mexico, 1960 to 1970*

County	1970 Population	Change, 1960 to 1970 Number	Percent
The State	708,775	82,296	13.1
Bernalillo	297,451	56,235	23.3
Catron	0	0	0
Chaves	33,908	-5,685	-14.4
Colfax	6,962	-1,184	-14.5
Curry	33,956	10,243	43.2
De Baca	0	0	0
Dona Ana	46,189	12,435	36.8
Eddy	31,612	-5,929	-15.8
Grant	10,659	3,687	52.9
Guadalupe	0	0	0
Harding	0	0	0
Hidalgo	3,429	-7	-0.2
Lea	40,183	-2,334	-5.5
Lincoln	0	0	0
Los Alamos	15,171	2,587	20.6
Luna	8,343	1,579	23.3
McKinley	18,554	880	5.0
Mora	0	0	0
Otero	33,887	8,964	36.0
Quay	7,189	-954	-11.7
Rio Arriba	3,902	**	**
Roosevelt	10,554	859	8.9
Sandoval	***	-2,574	***
San Juan	25,333	-2,590	-9.3
San Miguel	13,835	17	0.1
Santa Fe	41,793	7,117	20.5
Sierra	4,656	387	9.1
Socorro	4,687	-584	-11.1
Taos	0	0	0
Torrance	0	0	0
Union	2,931	-383	-11.6
Valencia	13,591	-4,372	-24.3

*1960 raw data are from PC(1)-33A, Number of Inhabitants, New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, p. 8; raw data for 1970 are from Advance Report PC(V1)-33 Revised, Final Population Counts: New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 3.

**Rio Arriba had no urban population in 1960

***Sandoval had no urban population in 1970

Table 6. Urban population change, by planning and development districts, New Mexico, 1960 to 1970

Districts and Counties	1970 Population	Change, 1960 to 1970 Number	Percent
District 1			
McKinley	18,554	880	
San Juan	25,333	-2,590	
Total	43,887	-1,710	-3.8
District 2			
Colfax	6,962	-1,184	
Los Alamos	15,171	2,587	
Mora	0	0	
Rio Arriba	3,902	3,902	
San Miguel	13,835	17	
Santa Fe	41,793	7,117	
Taos	0	0	
Total	81,663	12,439	18.0
District 3			
Bernalillo	297,451	56,235	
Sandoval	0	-2,574	
Torrance	0	0	
Valencia	13,591	-4,372	
Total	311,042	49,289	18.8
District 4			
Curry	33,956	10,243	
De Baca	0	0	
Guadalupe	0	0	
Harding	0	0	
Quay	7,189	-954	
Roosevelt	10,554	859	
Union	2,931	-383	
Total	54,630	9,765	21.8
District 5			
Catron	0	0	
Dona Ana	46,189	12,435	
Grant	10,659	3,687	
Hidalgo	3,429	-7	
Luna	8,343	1,579	
Sierra	4,656	387	
Socorro	4,687	-584	
Total	77,963	17,497	28.9
District 6			
Chaves	33,908	-5,685	
Eddy	31,612	-5,929	
Lea	40,183	-2,334	
Lincoln	0	0	
Otero	33,887	8,964	
Total	139,590	-4,984	-3.5

*1960 raw data are from PC(1)-33A, Number of Inhabitants, New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, p. 8; raw data for 1970 are from Advance Report PC(VI)-33 Revised, Final Population Counts: New Mexico, U. S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 3.

twice the 13.1 percent increase in the urban population in New Mexico between 1960 and 1970.

Rural Population Changes in the 1960s

As the percentage of urban people in the total population of New Mexico has increased, the percentage of rural inhabitants has decreased. Despite its longtime proportional decline, the rural population increased numerically until the 1940s (table 1). In 1950, for the first time, the census showed a numerical as well as a percentage decline in the rural population. The numerical decline continued in both the 1950s and the 1960s. The decline was 16,119 between 1940 and 1950, 14,754 between 1950 and 1960, and 17,319 between 1960 and 1970.

Table 7. Rural population change, by counties, New Mexico, 1960 to 1970*

County	1970 Population	Change, 1960 to 1970 Number	Percent
The State	307,225	-17,319	-5.3
Bernalillo	18,323	-2,660	-12.7
Catron	2,198	-575	-20.7
Chaves	9,427	-8,629	-47.8
Colfax	5,208	-452	-8.0
Curry	5,561	-3,417	-38.1
De Baca	2,547	-444	-14.8
Dona Ana	23,584	-2,610	-10.0
Eddy	9,507	-3,735	-28.2
Grant	11,371	-357	-3.0
Guadalupe	4,969	-641	-11.4
Harding	1,348	-526	-28.1
Hidalgo	1,305	-220	-14.4
Lea	9,371	-1,541	-14.1
Lincoln	7,560	-184	-2.4
Los Alamos	27	-426	-94.0
Luna	3,363	288	9.4
McKinley	24,654	5,119	26.2
Mora	4,673	-1,355	-22.5
Otero	7,210	-4,843	-40.2
Quay	3,714	-422	-10.2
Rio Arriba	21,268	-2,925	-12.1
Roosevelt	5,925	-578	-8.9
Sandoval	17,492	5,865	50.4
San Juan	27,184	1,801	7.1
San Miguel	8,116	-1,534	-15.9
Santa Fe	11,963	1,669	16.2
Sierra	2,533	393	18.4
Socorro	5,076	179	3.7
Taos	17,516	1,582	9.9
Torrance	5,290	-1,207	-18.6
Union	1,994	-760	-27.6
Valencia	26,948	5,826	27.6

*1960 raw data are from PC(1)-33A, Number of Inhabitants: New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, p. 8; raw data for 1970 are from Advance Report PC(V1)-33 Revised, Final Population Counts: New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 3.

Just as the urban population changes varied from county to county, the rural population changes differed greatly among counties (table 7). Eleven counties had less than 10,000 inhabitants in 1970. All but two of these showed substantial rural population losses between 1960 and 1970. Losses like these assume significance since the county populations already were small. The rural exodus has so reduced the size of the population that not enough people are left to maintain basic services and institutions. The people who remain in such areas frequently live in a chronically depressed condition.

Rural population in the state as a whole declined 5.3 percent. Twenty-three counties had declines ranging from 2.4 percent in Lincoln County to 47.8 percent in Chavez County. (Los Alamos had a decline of 94.0 percent but only 453 persons were classified as rural in that county in 1960.)

Of the nine counties with increases in rural population, three–McKinley, Sandoval, and Valencia–each had numerical increases which exceeded 5,000 persons. On a percentage basis, the biggest increase (50.4 percent) occurred in Sandoval County.

The rank order of the counties in terms of the percentage gain or loss of rural population between 1960 and 1970 is shown in figure 4. The change in Los Alamos is not shown because of the small rural population in the county.

Rural population changes also varied as between the six planning and development districts in the state (table 8).

Losses occurred in four districts while two districts showed gains. There was some slight variation within some of the districts, but on the whole each district either showed a uniform loss or gain in the rural population.

Fig. 4. Counties ranked by percentage change in rural population, 1960 to 1970

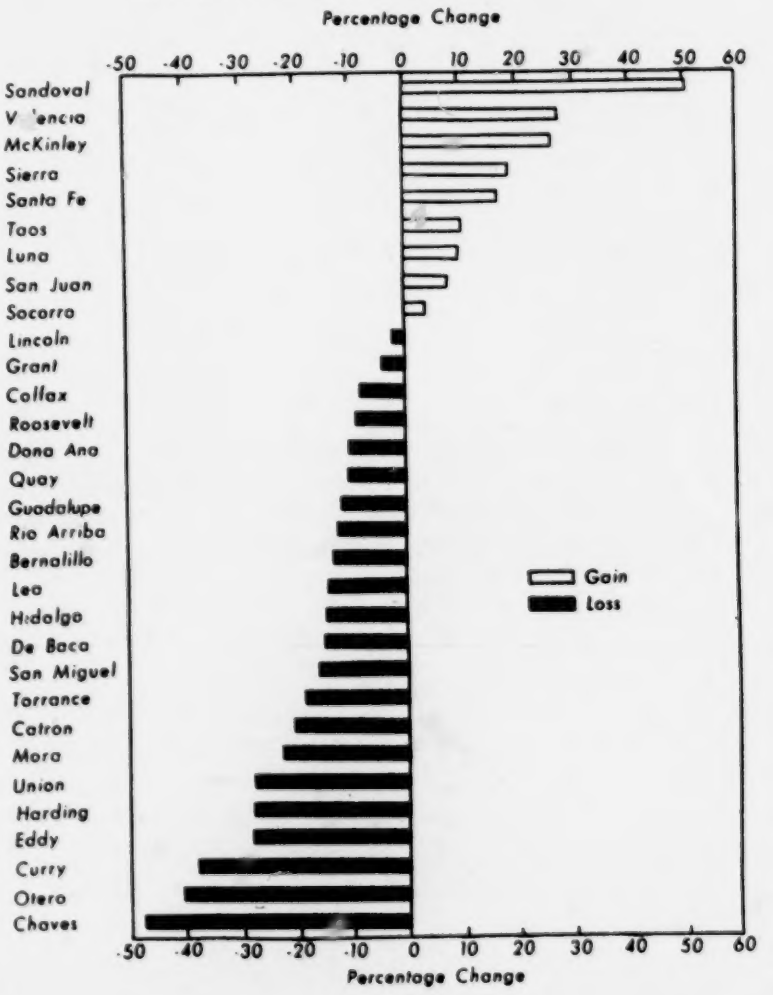

Table 8. Rural population change, by planning and development districts, New Mexico, 1960 to 1970*

Districts and Counties	1970 Population	Change, 1960 to 1970 Number	Percent
District 1			
McKinley	24,654	5,119	
San Juan	27,184	1,801	
Total	51,838	6,916	15.4
District 2			
Colfax	5,208	-452	
Los Alamos	27	-426	
Mora	4,673	-1,355	
Rio Arriba	21,268	-2,925	
San Miguel	8,116	-1,534	
Santa Fe	11,963	1,669	
Taos	17,516	1,582	
Total	68,771	-3,441	-4.8
District 3			
Bernalillo	18,323	-2,660	
Sandoval	17,492	5,865	
Torrance	5,290	-1,207	
Valencia	26,948	5,826	
Total	68,053	7,824	13.0
District 4			
Curry	5,561	-3,417	
De Baca	2,547	-444	
Guadalupe	4,969	-641	
Harding	1,348	-526	
Quay	3,714	-422	
Roosevelt	5,925	-578	
Union	1,994	-760	
Total	26,058	-6,788	-20.7
District 5			
Catron	2,198	-575	
Dona Ana	23,584	-2,610	
Grant	11,371	-357	
Hidalgo	1,305	-220	
Luna	3,363	288	
Sierra	2,533	393	
Socorro	5,076	179	
Total	49,430	-2,902	-5.5
District 6			
Chaves	9,427	-8,629	
Eddy	9,507	-3,735	
Lea	9,371	-1,541	
Lincoln	7,560	-184	
Otero	7,210	-4,843	
Total	43,075	-18,932	-30.5

*1960 raw data are from PC(1)-33A, Number of Inhabitants, New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, p. 8; raw data for 1970 are from Advance Report PC(VI)-33 Revised, Final Population Counts: New Mexico, U.S. Census of population: 1970, p. 3

New Mexico's Population Centers

Included in this report, for purposes of general information, are data on the 1960 and 1970 population of "places" in New Mexico.[6] For the sake of convenience, the centers have been put into the following categories: 1) incorporated and unincorporated places of 2,500 or more inhabitants; 2) incorporated and unincorporated places of 1,000 to 2,499 inhabitants; and 3) incorporated places of less than 1,000 inhabitants.[7] Data for the three categories are shown in tables 9, 10, and 11, respectively.

Of the 34 places with more than 2,500 inhabitants, 20 lost population between 1960 and 1970. Of the larger cities in the state, Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe, however, gained large percentage increases.

The 1970 census included seven unincorporated places for which no population was separately enumerated in 1960 (table 9). The population of three of these is included in the urbanized area in Bernalillo County. Without the designation of the other four as urban, the percentage increase in the urban population in New Mexico would have been even smaller than the 3.9 percent increase reported.

Table 10 indicates that of the 14 places in New Mexico with from 1,000 to 2,499 inhabitants for which the population was enumerated in 1960, exactly half lost population in the 1960s.

It is evident that the population centers in New Mexico with less than 1,000 inhabitants are losing population (table 11). Of the 39 such centers for which the population was enumerated in 1960, over two-thirds lost population between 1960 and 1970.

[6]The term "place" as used in the reports of the Bureau of the Census refers to a concentration of population regardless of the existence of legally prescribed limits, powers, or functions.

[7]Census reports do not show population data for any unincorporated places of less than 1,000 inhabitants.

Table 9. Population of places with 2,500 or more inhabitants, New Mexico, 1970*

Place	County	Population 1970	Population 1960	Percent Change 1960 to 1970
Alamogordo	Otero	23,035	21,723	6.0
Albuquerque	Bernalillo	243,751	201,189	21.2
Artesia	Eddy	10,315	12,000	-14.0
Aztec	San Juan	3,354	4,137	-18.9
Bayard	Grant	2,908	2,327	25.0
Belen	Valencia	4,823	5,031	-4.1
Cannon**	Curry	5,461	***	***
Carlsbad	Eddy	21,297	25,541	-16.6
Clayton	Union	2,931	3,314	-11.6
Clovis	Curry	28,495	23,713	20.2
Deming	Luna	8,343	6,764	23.3
Espanola	Rio Arriba Santa Fe	3,902 626	1,976	129.1
Eunice	Lea	2,641	3,531	-25.2
Farmington	San Juan	21,979	23,786	-7.6
Gallup	McKinley	14,596	[illegible]089	3.6
Grants	Valencia	8,768	10,274	-14.7
Hobbs	Lea	26,025	26,275	-1.0
Holloman**	Otero	8,001	***	***
Jal	Lea	2,602	3,501	-14.7
Las Cruces	Dona Ana	37,857	29,367	28.9
Las Vegas city	San Miguel	7,528	7,790	-3.4
Las Vegas town	San Miguel	6,307	6,028	4.6
Lordsburg	Hidalgo	3,429	3,436	-0.2
Los Alamos**	Los Alamos	11,310	12,584	-10.1
Lovington	Lea	8,915	9,660	-7.7
North Valley**	Bernalillo	10,366	***	***
Portales	Roosevelt	10,554	9,695	8.9
Raton	Colfax	6,962	8,146	-14.5
Roswell	Chaves	33,908	39,593	-14.4
Sandia**	Bernalillo	6,867	***	***
Santa Fe	Santa Fe	41,167	33,394	23.3
Silver City	Grant	7,751	6,972	11.2
Socorro	Socorro	4,687	5,271	-11.1
South Valley**	Bernalillo	29,389	***	***
Truth or Consequences	Sierra	4,656	4,269	9.1
Tucumcari	Quay	7,189	8,143	-11.7
Tularosa	Otero	2,851	3,200	-10.9
University Park-Tortugas**	Dona Ana	4,165	4,387	-5.1
White Rock**	Los Alamos	3,861	***	***
White Sands**	Dona Ana	4,167	***	***
Zuni Pueblo**	McKinley	3,958	3,585	10.4

*Advance Report PC(VI)-33 Revised, Final Population Counts: New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, pp. 5-6

**Unincorporated

***No population enumerated in 1960

Table 10. Population of places with 1,000 to 2,499 inhabitants, New Mexico, 1970*

Place	County	Population 1970	Population 1960	Percent Change 1960 to 1970
Anthony**	Dona Ana	1,728	**	**
Bernalillo	Sandoval	2,016	2,574	-21.7
Bloomfield	San Juan	1,574	1,292	21.8
Carrizozo	Lincoln	1,123	1,546	-27.4
Central	Grant	1,864	1,075	73.4
Fort Sumner	De Baca	1,615	1,809	-10.7
Hurley	Grant	1,796	1,851	-3.0
Isleta Pueblo**	Bernalillo	1,080	***	***
Jemez Pueblo**	Sandoval	1,197	***	***
La Mesilla	Dona Ana	1,713	***	***
Los Ranchos de Albuquerque	Bernalillo	1,900	***	***
Loving	Eddy	1,192	1,646	-27.6
Meadow Vista**	Dona Ana	1,402	***	***
Milan	Valencia	2,185	2,658	-17.8
Mountainair	Torrance	1,022	1,605	-36.3
Questa	Taos	1,095	***	***
Ruidoso	Lincoln	2,216	1,557	42.3
San Felipe Pueblo**	Sandoval	1,187	1,034	14.8
Santa Rosa	Guadalupe	2,485	2,220	11.9
Santa Domingo Pueblo**	Sandoval	1,662	***	***
Springer	Colfax	1,574	1,564	0.6
Taos	Taos	2,475	2,163	14.4
Taos Pueblo**	Taos	1,030	***	***

*Adapted from Advance Report PC(VI)-33 Revised, Final Population Counts: New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, pp. 5-6

**Unincorporated

***No population enumerated in 1960

Table 11. Population of incorporated places of less than 1,000 inhabitants, New Mexico, 1970*

Place	County	Population 1970	Population 1960	Percent Change 1960 to 1970
Capitan	Lincoln	439	552	-20.5
Causey	Roosevelt	150	38	294.7
Chama	Rio Arriba	899	**	**
Cimarron	Colfax	927	997	-7.0
Cloudcroft	Otero	525	464	13.1
Columbus	Luna	241	307	-21.5
Corona	Lincoln	262	420	-37.6
Des Moines	Union	204	207	-1.4
Dexter	Chaves	746	885	-15.7
Dora	Roosevelt	196	113	73.5
Elida	Roosevelt	233	534	-56.4
Encino	Torrance	250	346	-27.7
Estancia	Torrance	721	797	-9.5
Floyd	Roosevelt	248	423	-41.4
Folsom	Union	75	142	-47.2
Grady	Curry	104	100	4.0
Grenville	Union	21	55	-61.8
Hagerman	Chaves	953	1,144	-18.7
Hatch	Dona Ana	867	888	-2.4
Hope	Eddy	90	108	-16.7
House	Quay	119	139	-14.4
Jemez Springs	Sandoval	356	223	59.6
Lake Arthur	Chaves	306	387	-20.9
Logan	Quay	386	320	20.6
Los Lunas	Valencia	973	1,186	-18.0
Magdalena	Socorro	652	1,211	-46.2
Maxwell	Colfax	393	392	0.3
Melrose	Curry	636	698	-8.9
Moriarity	Torrance	758	720	5.3
Mosquero	Harding / San Miguel	244	310	-21.3
Pecos	San Miguel	598	584	2.4
Roy	Harding	476	633	-24.8
Ruidoso Downs	Lincoln	702	407	72.5
San Jon	Quay	308	411	-25.1
Tatum	Lea	982	1,168	-15.9
Texico	Curry	772	889	-13.2
[illegible]ughn	Guadalupe	867	1,170	-25.9
[illegible]rden	Hidalgo	151	135	11.9
Wagon Mound	Mora	630	760	-17.1
Willard	Torrance	209	294	-28.9
Williamsburg	Sierra	367	**	**

*Adapted from Advance Report PC(VI)-33 Revised, Final Population Counts: New Mexico, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, pp. 5-6

**No population enumerated in 1960

New Mexico State University's Agricultural Experiment Station publishes many bulletins and research reports of interest to residents of New Mexico. You may obtain a copy of the latest list of such publications by contacting the County Extension Office in your county, or by writing to:

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